RARE BOOK & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY:
ANNUAL REPORT, FY 2009-2010

Highlights of the Year

With staffing and access to resources in general reduced as responses to the economic downturn, the RBML nonetheless continued move forward on a number of fronts simultaneously. Our core access and outreach programs maintained their vigorous pace and excellent quality, and we were also able to make some major acquisitions of manuscripts and books along the way. Notable highlights include:

The publication by the University of Virginia Press in March of volume one of the *Selected Papers of John Jay*.

A major award to the Oral History Research Office from the Atlantic Philanthropies that will allow it to build capacity to transform itself into a significant professional center.

Two major conferences relating to important collections in the RBML: one on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the publication of William Burroughs' *Naked Lunch* in the fall, and the other on journals of opinion in the spring. The latter recognized the RBML's acquisition of the records of *The New Leader*.

Completion of a major project to provide access to the hundreds of puppets and masks in the Brander Matthews Dramatic Museum collection.

Designing and implementing a new set of relationships with central Development at Columbia to focus more attention and resources on annual giving as well as on outreach to Columbia alumni. This is a decisive change in development strategy, moving us away from a focus on a small number of "friends" and towards a large of pool of alumni who have never been approached by the Libraries.

Selected Acquisitions

Medieval/Renaissance:

A superb 15th-century copy of Hugh of St. Cher's postils on the Apocalypse. The manuscript is in parchment and in its original binding. The provenance of this important manuscript includes a stay in the collection of Leander van Ess in the earlier 19th century. Many of Van Ess's books are now in the Burke Library (UTS). The acquisition was made possible by the Kristeller Fund, supplemented by a timely award from the Bernard Breslauer Foundation.

Major Manuscripts and Archives:

Edward Said Papers: Noted Columbia literary scholar

The records of the Maysles Brothers: Important documentary film makers

Peter Maas Papers: Investigative journalist and novelist

Barney Rosset Papers: Founder and publisher of Grove Press and Evergreen Review

Albert Ellis Papers: Hugely influential psychologist, therapist, and writer

Chaliapin Family Papers: Including opera star Fiodor and son and artist, Boris

Hortense Calisher Papers: Novelist and short-story writer and Barnard graduate

Hettie Jones Papers: Feminist, poet and children's book writer

Ulysses Kay Papers: Noted American composer

James Harper Papers: One of the founders of Harper Bros. publishing firm

Andrew Sarris Papers: Influential film critic and Columbia faculty member

Koji Nakanishi Papers: Major Columbia chemist

Richard Poirier Papers: Noted critic and editor (*Raritan Review*)

William T. Golden Papers: Important investment banker and science advisor to Presidents Truman and Eisenhower

Jane Gould Papers: Early feminist and founder, Barnard Center for Research on Women

A. Doak Barnett Papers: Major scholar of and government advisor on China and China policy

Max Neuhaus Papers: A pioneer in sound sculpture

Records of the Committee to Protect Journalists: Major human rights organization devoted to global press freedom

Records of the Institute for Current World Affairs: International fellowship program started by Charles Crain

Records of the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility: A watchdog organization promoting effective corporate governance

Rare Books:

James G. Nelson: A major gift of more than 100 titles relating to publishing and literature in fin-de-siecle Britain

Edward Said: More than 200 titles from his library containing notes and annotations

Andrew Alpern: A large and important gift of publications by and relating to the artist/writer Edward Gorey

Outreach, Classes, Programs

Lacking the financial resources of Harvard, Yale, Princeton, or Texas, the RBML curatorial staff nonetheless maintain one of the most active and innovative set of engagements with students, faculty, and the larger research community in the area. RBML staff met, amazingly, with more 400 individual classes during the past year. This is an extraordinary achievement, and it testifies to our growing importance in the work of teaching and learning. We are reaching out and building new constituencies in (e.g.) the School of the Arts, the Columbia Business School, Art History Department, etc. in addition to continuing to work closely with faculty in Medieval Studies, English, History, and the Core. While most of our work in these areas is done with Columbia and Barnard faculty and classes, curators also serve as areas resources for students and faculty at NYU, Fordham, and the CUNY system. It is also important to note that three RBML curators also hold adjunct appointments in Columbia academic departments and regularly offer their own courses.

Programs:

Book History Colloquium: With its nine sessions during the academic year, this important series has become a major fixture and resource in the area, drawing a growing audience of students, faculty, and researchers

NYC Rare Book & Manuscript Workshop: Designed originally to introduce Columbia graduate students to primary sources at area libraries, the workshop now includes students from NYU, Fordham, and Stony Brook. More than 140 students participated during the past year, and the Princeton Library was included as a new destination stop for the group.

"50th Anniversary of William S. Burroughs's Naked Lunch." A major, three-day conference that brought together scholars, curators, collectors, editors, and publishers to examine the past, present, and future of this seminal work.

"Journalism of Opinion." A one-day conference that examined the past and future of niche opinion publications and featuring speakers from the academy and the media, as well as writers and editors.

In addition, the RBML co-sponsored a number of conferences with academic units at Columbia and Barnard.

Exhibitions:

Our exhibitions program continued its well-honed tradition of giving quality voice and expression to several of our collections this past year. Most of our shows include a public program, and the past year continued that fine tradition:

Kempner Gallery

Summer 2009: RBML Jewels Reproductions (Redux)

Fall/Winter 2009: "Frances Perkins: The Woman Behind the New Deal"
November 5, 2009 – February 26, 2010
(Kirstin Downey, Perkins biography, published Doubleday, March 2009; FOL talk by Downey, Thursday, Nov. 5, with Perkins's Grandson, Tomlin Coggeshall here)

Spring/Summer 2010: "Joseph Pulitzer and *The World*"
March 15 – July 2, 2010
(James McGrath Morris Pulitzer biography, published HarperCollins, February, 2010, FOL talk April 7, 2010)

Chang Octagon and Cube Cases

Fall 2009: "*Naked Lunch*: The First Fifty Years"
William Burroughs exhibit
(Gerald Cloud, curator, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of *Naked Lunch,* with conference Friday, October 9, and reception in RBML)

Spring/Early Summer, 2010
"Working Close to the Source, Selections from Mellon Archival Processing Projects"
(Mellon interns reception on May 3)

Online exhibitions have become a routine part of our outreach program, and during the past we contributed a bumper crop on new shows for the web, including:

"Frances Perkins: The Woman Behind the New Deal"

"*Naked Lunch*: The First Fifty Years"

"Choosing Sides: Right-Wing Icons in the Group Research Records"

"The Melting Pot: Russian Jewish New York"

"The Chamber of Commerce of New York"

In addition to these, we have several important online exhibitions in preparation that will be released in early 2011.

Social Media:

The RBML has been among the most active parts of the Libraries to adopt web 2.0 social media to push out content and information. We have developed a series of blogs that provide occasional updates on discoveries and initiatives. These include:

Columbia Curators' Choices: New acquisitions and interesting rare books, manuscripts, archives, ephemera, and realia; and news of collections being cataloged and processed, and events and exhibits at the Rare Book and Manuscript Library (RBML), Columbia University.

Adventures in Processing: Explore the behind-the-scenes world of archives, personal papers, and manuscripts at RBML. Our staff of professional archivists will introduce you to the collections on which they are working, explore the processes and techniques used to make archival collections available to scholars, and bring to the fore collection highlights and interesting discoveries.

Oral History Research Office: News, events, and digitized interviews from the oldest and largest organized oral history program in the world.

The Selected Papers of John Jay: chronicle by a team of scholars at Columbia University, who produce a multivolume scholarly edition of Jay's papers.

On Archiving Schapiro: An informal forum that communicates and shares milestones during the course of processing the Meyer Shapiro Papers at the Rare Book and Manuscript Library (RBML), Columbia University.

Major Armstrong: Scientist, Technologist and Philosopher: an informal blog highlighting materials from the collection of the E. H. Armstrong Papers at the Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University

Access

RBML's experienced and dedicated professional archivists continued their excellent work in staying on top of the large intake of new material while also making important progress in upgrading and improving access to underprocessed collections. Archival staff brought under professional control nearly 2,000 linear feet of material. That impressive figure is the result of a complex mix of factors, including: streamlined processing practices, the graduate intern program, and increasing use of unpaid interns from area library school programs. At the same time, work continues on migrating older finding aids to a new, consistent EAD format. Nearly one-quarter of our collections now have EAD finding aids. In 2008, only a handful did. That is impressive work.

The processing record for the past year includes:

Collections processed by RBML Archivists

Cornell Woolrich
PO Kristeller
LaVigne, Robert
Harriman Institute Theses
Deak, Istvan
Borchardt
Armstrong
Herbert Lehman Papers
HRW (2nd Accession)
David Abrahamsen Papers
Gregory Corso Papers
Office of the Provost Records
AIUSA DC Office
AIUSA Central Africa Co-Group
Meyer Schapiro Collection
David Dinkins Papers
Logunova Papers
Peter Orlovsky Papers
Philip Whalen Papers
APHA
AIUSA DC Office

Herbert Gans
Ginsberg, Allen
School of Mines
Herbert H. Lehman
Papers
Ginsberg, Allen
Beat Poets and Poetry

Collections processed by Mellon Interns

Samuel Roth
Karl Beckson
Marguerite Mespoulet
Guglielmo Ferrero
Albert Field
George Perkins, Jr.
Marguerite Mespoulet
Grand St. Pub., Inc
Emma Lundberg
Vladimir Ussachevsky
Barry Miles
Herbert Gans
NY Juvenile
Asylum/Children's Village
George Perkins, Jr.
Grand St. Pub., Inc
Society of American
Historians
Hettie Jones

Collections processed by library school interns

Kent Family Papers
Istvan Deak Papers
Hoyt Papers
Bonsall Family Papers
Alfred Kahn Papers
Preston Gibson Papers
Wright, Ernest Hunter MS#1395
Valency, Maurice J. MS#1281
Etzkorn, Leo Rudolph MS#0403
Fadiman, Clifton MS#0410
Loos, Melvin MS#0800
Frarey, Carlyle James MS#0453

We also made important progress in providing access to underserved portions of our large collections. With the assistance of a timely grant from the Delmas Foundation, RBML staff collaborated with IT staff, PRD staff, and others to

film and create metadata for our holdings of puppets and masks. In recent years, there has been an uptick of interest in these materials, so researchers should welcome the results of this complex but successful project. We also experimented with using library school interns to create simple, online records for more than 800 manuscripts relating to banking and finance from the Montgomery Collection. While these records are not ideal, they at least provide electronic access where only paper access was available previously. We will be doing more projects like this in the years ahead. Finally, we have made excellent progress in cataloging our large collection of Hebrew manuscripts. As of the writing of this document, more than half of them have been cataloged, and we are on track to conclude the project in a timely way.

The good work of RBML staff in dramatically improving outreach and access has resulted in a welcome surge in the use of the collections on site. Nearly 2,500 researchers visited the RBML last year, and we have regularly begun using both reading rooms to accommodate our patrons. Add to these over 2,000 remote reference transactions, and one has a sense of the scale and pace of patron services in the RBML.

Oral History Research Office

OHRO continued its work in the areas of visual/fine arts and contemporary legal advocacy with the Apollo Theater Oral History Project, the Elizabeth Murray Oral History of Women in the Visual Arts, and the Rule of Law Oral History Project. OHRO was also given capacity-building fundng from the Atlantic Philanthropies to support the transition of OHRO from an office to an international center for the study and practice of oral history.

Apollo Theater Project:

Begun in 2008, this important documentary project conducted some forty-five hours of interviews in 2009-2010:

Jane Harley: longtime talent scout and producer

Nona Hendryx: singer, songwriter, playwright

Maurice Hines: dancer and choreographer

Jerry Kupfer: radio and TV producer

Gloria Lynne: jazz vocalist

Billy Mitchell: Apollo historian and director of tours

Thelma Prince: dancer and dressmaker

Jonelle Procope: Pres. of the Apollo Theater Foundation

David Rodriguez: Exec. Dir., Bergen Performing Arts Center

Charlotte Sutton: producer and executive for the Apollo

Dionne Warwick: vocalist and actress

Rule of Law:

With funding from the Atlantic Philanthropies, OHRO conducted interviews with eight important legal advocates:

Millard Farmer: Founder of Team Defense in Atlanta

Scharlette Holdman: Center for Capital Assistance (New Orleans)

Emi MacLean: Guantanamo Global Justice Initiative, Center for Constitutional Rights

Clive Stafford Smith: Founder and Exec. Dir. of Reprieve

P. Sabin Willet: Partner at Bingham McCutcheon and pro-bono defense attorney for Guantanamo detainees

Women in the Visual Arts:

With funding from the Agnes Gund Foundation, thirty-five hours of interviews were completed this past year:

Betsy Baker: Art critic and writer

Elizabeth Catlett: Sculptor and printmaker

Grace Glueck: Art critic and writer

Agnes Gund: Past Pres. of MoMA and art collector

Joan Jonas: Video and performance artist

Kate Millet: Columbia PhD, artist, and early feminist

Dorothy Rockburne: Abstract art painter

Barbara Smith: Performance artist

Archival Submissions:

This past year, the small OHRO submitted more than one thousand pages of transcripts to the Libraries, including interviews with Robert DeVecchi, Kenneth Frampton, Brandon Gill, John Kluge, Robert Legvold, Paul J. Smith, and Fareed Zakaria.

Preservation/Digital Initiatives:

Begun in 2008, the Mellon Preservation Project ended this past year, having rescued some 1,200 hours of recorded interviews from tapes that were judged to be in immediate danger of irreversible deterioration. In addition, the Libraries Digital Program Division supported the digitization of over 200 September 11, 2001 interviews. Finally, the long-deferred "top 135 oral histories" project was revived this past year, and nearly 75% of the collection of transcripts was reviewed for quality control and eventual mounting on the web.

Education and Outreach:

The Oral History Master of Arts program completed its second successful year, with fifteen students. In addition to courses, the program also sponsored a year-long series of lectures and workshops on oral history.

The theme of the annual Summer Institute this past year was: "Oral History from the Ground Up: Space, Place, and Memory." Eighteen Fellows attended along with fifteen faculty from countries in Europe, Asia, South America.

John Jay Papers Project

As noted at the outset of this report, volume one of the Selected Papers of John Jay came out in February, 2010, from the University of Virginia Press. A handsome, stout volume, the book is witness to the good efforts of the editorial staff and board of the project to persist in spite of some formidable odds. They deserve a hearty congratulation.

With seven more volumes to come, the editorial work continues apace. Volume two has been completed and submitted to the Press, and a first draft of volume three has been prepared. Textual work and annotations have been completed and checked for two-thirds of volume four. This is a record of solid progress.

Support for the project comes both from the Libraries and from annual awards from the NHPRC. Project staff have won the respect and confidence of the

NHPRC, making us optimistic that, barring political reversals, funding will be in place to see the project to the end.

Annual Giving and Public Programs

As noted at the beginning of this report, the past year saw a decisive reorganization and reorientation of the Libraries development efforts. For the past decade, development activity has been focused on major gifts from friends. While this has yielded some good results, on the balance the record has been mixed. During the past year, a decision was made to refocus development for the Libraries along two parallel axes: concentrate on annual giving that will build a larger and more diverse base of Libraries givers, and direct attention away from friends and more towards Columbia alumni – our more natural and accessible support pool. With support and encouragement not only from central development staff but from the Trustees Committee on Development, we thus launched a multi-pronged campaign to reach out broadly to alumni: through written appeals, printed matter (our calendars and newsletters), email blasts, and phone solicitation. In spite a severely hobbled economy, the initial results of our efforts are encouraging: a 22% rise in total annual giving. In the year ahead, we look forward to collaborating with central development colleagues on getting expanded access to alumni of the College and GSAS. In addition, we have been cleared to solicit the parents of graduating seniors from the College and SEAS.

This past year saw a rich, diverse menu of public programs offered, sponsore, and managed by the Libraries. Indeed, it would be hard to point to another university library that offers so much and so varied public programming to its constituents as the Libraries. A complete list of programs is in Appendix B.

Respectfully submitted:

Michael Ryan
Director,
Rare Book & Manuscript Library

APPENDIX B: LIBRARIES PUBLIC PROGRAMS, 2009-2010

Wednesday, September 23, 2009, 6:00 p.m.
Barnard Writers in Conversation
Mary Beth Keane, author of *The Walking People*
& Mary Gordon, author of *Circling My Mother* and *Pearl*

October 8–10, 2009
The 50th Anniversary of *Naked Lunch:* A Three-Day Conference

Thursday, October 22, 2009, 6:00 p.m.
Cinema in New York: An Evening in Honor of Dan Talbot

Thursday, November 5, 2009, 6:00 p.m.
Frances Perkins: The Woman Behind the New Deal
An Exhibition
Opening lecture by Kirstin Downey

Thursday, November 12, 2009, 6:00 p.m.
"Glocal Futures: The Burke Library and Theologies of the City"
Sponsored by the Friends of the Burke Library
A lecture by John Weaver

Thursday, November 19, 2009, 6:00 p.m.
"Lipstick Traces: Live"
A lecture as performance by Greil Marcus

Wednesday, December 9, 2009, 6:00 p.m.
"Curator's Choice: Architectural Archives at Avery Library"
Part of our Curators at Home lecture series.
A lecture by Janet Parks

Spring 2010 Events

Tuesday, January 26, 2010, 6:00 p.m.
"Learned Virtuosity, Virtuously Displayed: Cultural Elites and Deep Purses in Restoration and 18th-Century Illustrated English Books"
The 16th Annual Rare Book & Manuscript Library Bibliography Week Lecture
Michael F. Suarez, S.J.

Tuesday, February 16, 2010, 6:00 p.m.
Readings from *The Really Big Once*
A play about Tennessee Williams and Elia Kazan
Presented by Target Margin Theater

Wednesday, February 24, 2010, 6:00 p.m.
The Great American University
A lecture by Jonathan R. Cole

Wednesday, March 3, 2010, 6:00 p.m.
Lecture by Drew Gilpin Faust
President and Lincoln Professor of History
Harvard University

Wednesday, March 24, 2010, 4:00 p.m.
Crossing the Finish Line
A lecture by William G. Bowen

Thursday, March 25, 2010, 6:00 p.m.
"Premier John Jay: The Most Important Man in America"
Celebrating the release of *The Selected Papers of John Jay, Volume 1: 1760–1779,* edited by Elizabeth M. Nuxoll.
A lecture by John P. Kaminski

Wednesday, April 7, 2010, 6:00 p.m.
Lecture on the Life of Pulitzer
James McGrath Morris

Thursday, April 8, 2010, 6:00 p.m.
"William James as Pastoral Philosopher"
Sponsored by the Friends of the Burke Library
A lecture by Dr. Brian Mahan

Thursday, April 15, 2010, 4:00 p.m.
Educating Scholars: Doctoral Education in the Humanities
A lecture by Harriet Zuckerman

Friday, April 30, 2010
Journalism of Opinion: A Half-Day Conference
For updated information, visit www.alumni.libraries.columbia.edu.

Monday, May 17, 2010, 5:00–7:00 p.m.
Avery Library 6th Annual Display of Recent Acquisitions
Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library

APPENDIX A: RBML STAFF LIST, JULY 2010

Michael T. Ryan, Director

Rosalinda M. Bautista, Sr. Secretary

Catherine N. Carson, Processing Archivist

Tanya Chebotarev, Curator, Bakhmeteff Archive

Mary Marshall Clark, Director, Oral History Research Office

Gerald W. Cloud, Research & Reference Librarian

Jennifer Comins, Project Archivist, David Dinkins Papers

Tara C. Craig, Reference Services Supervisor

Consuelo W. Dutschke, Curator, Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts

Mary A. Y. Gallagher, Associate Editor, John Jay Papers (Part-Time)

Jane Gorjevsky, Curator, Carnegie Archive

Elizabeth Grefrath, Project Coordinator, Oral History Research Office

Matt Hampel, Annual Giving & Special Events Officer

Susan G. Hamson, Curator of Manuscripts & University Archivist

Carrie Elise Hintz, Processing Archivist

Christopher M. Laico, Processing Archivist

Patrick T. Lawlor, Technical Services Coordinator, Manuscripts & Archives

Jennifer B. Lee, Curator of Performing Arts

Elizabeth M. Nuxoll, Editor, John Jay Papers

Martin Kevin O'Connor, Bibliographic Assistant

Lea Osborne, Processing Archivist

Lisa Peet, New Leader Office

Alix Ross, Manager, Graduate Internship Program

Yekaterina Shraga, Archivist, Bakhmeteff Archive

Jane Rodgers Siegel, Rare Book Librarian

Carolyn Smith, Processing Archivist

Jennifer Steenshorne, Assistant Editor, John Jay Papers

Corie Trancho-Robie, Assistant Director, Oral History Research Office

Farris Wahbeh, Project Archivist, Meyer Schapiro Papers

Eric Wakin, Lehman Curator for American History

Jocelyn Wilk, Public Services Archivist